

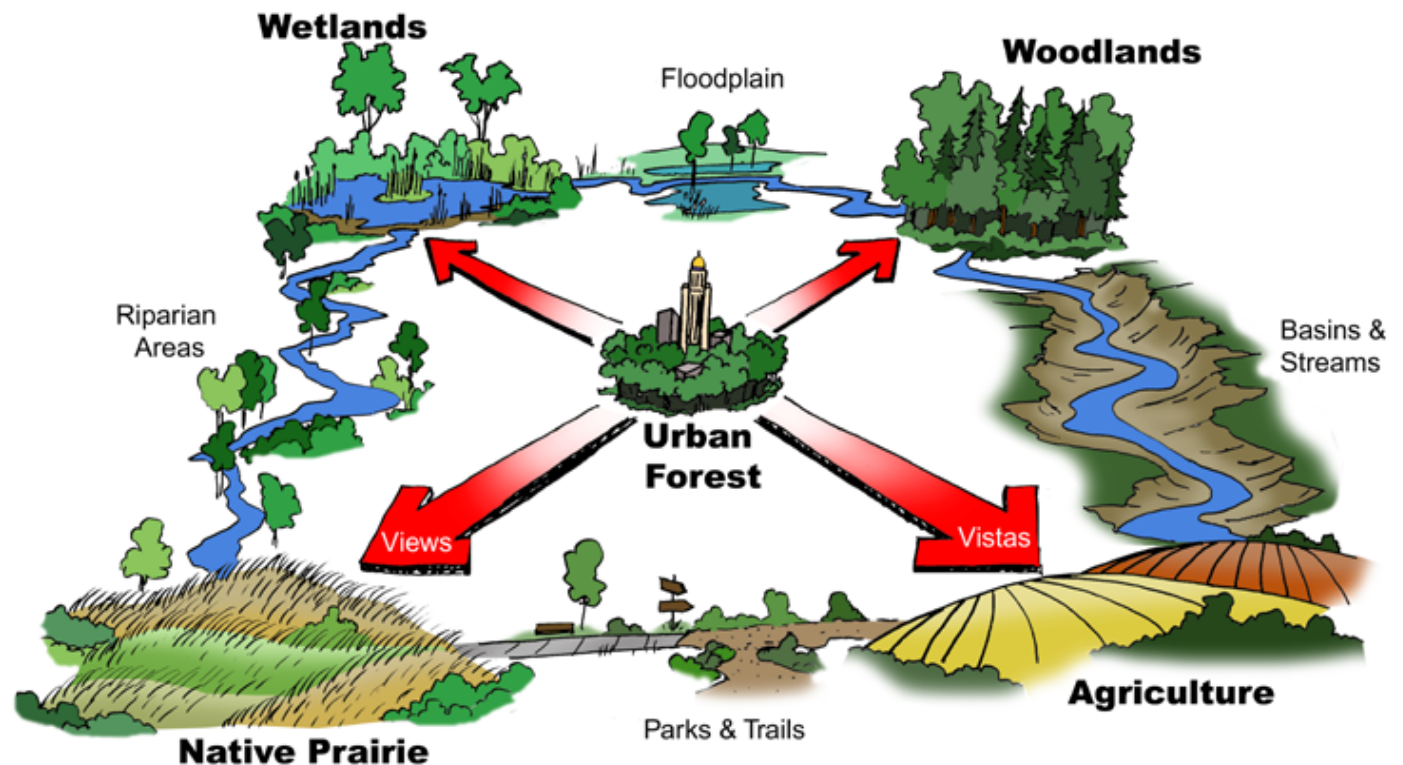
## TWO: NATURAL RESOURCE FRAMEWORK

### RESOURCE IMPERATIVES

Resource imperatives are important natural and cultural landscape resources that need protection and preservation. Historically, Lancaster County along with a large portion of central North America was covered in native tallgrass prairies. This region is dominated by shared characteristics regarding topography and climate, soils, surface water systems, groundwater, vegetation, wildlife and other important features. The Greenprint has been developed to recognize the harmony and connections that exist in the ecosystem in which Lancaster County subsists. It is within this general framework that a number of resource imperatives have been identified. Some of the resources discussed are important because they are remnants of this prairie ecosystem. Others are significant because they have developed as cultural and historical features.

The resource imperatives discussed below represent much more than valuable commodities to be utilized in the production of goods. These resource imperatives are the most im-

portant natural, cultural and historic features that exist in Lancaster County and help define its unique sense of place. It is not the purpose of this phase of the Greenprint to identify specific places in Lancaster County (i.e. Wilderness Park, Spring Creek Prairie, Little Salt Creek, Nine Mile Prairie, etc.) but to identify the major resource types and features.



The resource imperatives analyzed during the development of the Greenprint can be studied individually in order to understand their importance, specific role and function. Likewise, they each can be studied individually to determine how human impacts or urban growth may threaten them. In addition, important planning implications can be developed for each individual resource imperative. However, each resource is joined together with others to form a comprehensive, interconnected system. Natural resources impact one another, and as such, decisions, plans or policies that are made with regard to one resource will undoubtedly impact others. Often this connectivity is hard to distinguish or understand. By developing the Greenprint in a way that recognizes that all natural resources are interconnected, planning and implementation strategies can be integrated more comprehensively, and impacts minimized.

The Greenprint recognizes, and utilizes the planning opportunities of the inherent spatial form of each resource imperative. Some imperatives tend to be ideally or historically associated with relatively large land areas that are currently most often contained in “patches” in Lancaster County (such as prairies, wetlands, or the urban forest). Others tend toward a linear form (such as floodplains, riparian areas, trail corridors and certain wetlands). These forms are fused together naturally in the ecosystem in which Lancaster County is located. The Greenprint plan is organized around these forms and derives structure from the connectivity and natural relationships of the forms.

The natural resource imperatives discussed below have been identified by the Greenprint Cabinet. Of those discussed, the Cabinet identified native prairie and saline wetlands as the most significant. All of the imperatives require a high level of consideration and focus in the development and implementation of the Greenprint. Numerous other natural resources and environmental features exist in the County and also require attention during the Greenprint and comprehensive planning processes.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE IMPERATIVES**

**NATIVE PRAIRIE**

**SALINE WETLANDS**

**PARKS, TRAIL CORRIDORS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS**

**FLOODPLAINS**

**AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

**CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES**

**FRESHWATER WETLANDS**

**RIPARIAN AREAS**

**BASINS AND STREAMS**

**URBAN FOREST**

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**VIEWS AND VISTAS**

**WOODLANDS**